

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 87

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That, in the enrollment of the bill (S. 419) to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 1 of the bill, strike "1997" and insert "1998".

(2) In section 2 of the bill:

(A) In subsection (d) of section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (as proposed to be amended by such section 2) strike "1998" and insert "1999".

(B) In subsection (f) of section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (as proposed to be amended by such section 2) strike "1998" and all that follows through "2001" and insert "1999, \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002".

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, during Rollcall Vote No. 82 on H.R. 34 I inadvertently recorded my vote as yes when I intended to vote no.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE TO HAVE UNTIL 5 P.M. APRIL 20, 1998, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 6, HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Education and the Workforce may have until 5 p.m., April 20, 1998, to file a report on the bill, H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND THEIR REMARKS IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD TODAY

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for today all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in that section of the RECORD entitled extension of remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, April 21, 1998, the Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1998

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, April 22, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3627, BROWNFIELD COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to outline the Brownfield Community Empowerment Act, H.R. 3627, which I introduced today along with my colleague the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

The Brownfield Community Empowerment Act will provide financial assistance to local governments and citizen organizations. Grants will be given to local governments and local citizens' organizations in the amount of \$100 million for fiscal years 1999 through 2003. Thirty percent of this money will be made directly available to local citizens' organizations.

In addition, my legislation will establish a revolving loan program which will allow local governments to provide money to persons or entities who wish to develop potential Brownfield sites. This revolving loan fund will insure that development continues into the future.

Public housing entities, which have been overlooked when it comes to eco-

omic development, will be able to apply for grants. Twenty-five million dollars will be made available for fiscal years 1999 through 2001. Public housing developments are oftentimes in the most dire need of economic development. As a representative of one of the highest concentrations of public housing residents in the Nation, I feel it is incumbent upon me to address the needs of those who have been overlooked.

Community involvement is also vital to sustaining any community. When it comes to economic development, the need for the input of those who would be most directly effected is even more vital. The Community Empowerment Act will give voice to the citizens of each and every community. It will ensure that meaningful public participation not merely perfunctory gestures will occur. Local citizens' organizations will be given full participation in assessment, remediation and cleanup.

The voices of the masses must not ever be quelled. It is my hope that this legislation will raise those voices to octaves never heard before. This legislation will guarantee the local citizens' organizations will receive 30 percent of the grants.

The reality of life, whether we want to acknowledge it or not, is that those who have the least are often left out in the cold. Environmental justice is yet another principle my legislation will address. Low-income and historically disenfranchised areas will be given priority when it comes to the awarding of grants. In addition, cleanup methods must be cognizant of the needs of certain populations such as the elderly, children and persons with AIDS. Quick fix approaches will not do when it comes to cleaning up our environment. We must invest in the long term. We must invest in everyone's future.

Empowerment zones were once thought to be the vehicle that would restore prosperity to economically stagnant areas. In many communities across this Nation, such has not been the case. I recognize the need for these economically thriving areas. That is why empowerment zones and enterprise communities will be given priority in the awarding of grants. A viable and effective Brownfield program can breathe life into economically wounded communities.

Winston Churchill once said, and I quote:

"Some people regard private enterprise as a predatory tiger to be shot. Others see it as a cow they can milk. Not enough people see it as a healthy horse, pulling a sturdy wagon."

I say let the Brownfield Community Empowerment Program be one of the reins which guides the healthy horse, and let economic revitalization and opportunities be the load of the sturdy wagon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.